

half an hour, often viewing it at a distance of not more than fifty feet. The temperature of the early morning had been 22°. The noon day temperature in the shade was officially given as 39°. The air at the time, however, was soft and warm and calm. Of course there was no insect life in the air, and the bird plainly was not looking for it there. In the afternoon of the following day an hour was spent searching for the bird, but I could not find it.

The Crested Flycatcher is a rare summer resident of Eastern Massachusetts, being so characterized by Mr. William Brewster in his "Birds of the Cambridge Region" and by Dr. C. W. Townsend in his "Birds of Essex County." The latest record for a bird of the species is given by Mr. Brewster as September 26, in 1897, when one was seen in Arlington by Dr. Walter Faxon. Messrs. Howe and Allen in their "Birds of Massachusetts" give the limit of the season as September 12 and a record without specific data of October 15. Mr. Richard M. Marble has a record of one seen by him on October 2, 1910, in the Allendale woods, West Roxbury.

This Cambridge bird, therefore, so far as I am able to determine from records at hand, furnishes the only occurrence of the species later than October 15 and was present sixty-six days after that date. The same means which had afforded it subsistence in October and November were doubtless present in December up to the day it was observed. No snow had as yet fallen to cover the ground. The mean temperature of December was officially given as 6° above the normal and the highest for twenty years. The temperature rose above freezing on all except four days. Thus this flycatcher had had unusually mild weather conditions under which to extend its remarkable stay.

Messrs. Baird, Brewer, and Ridgway in their "History of North American Land Birds, vol. 2, p. 336, state, "During the early summer this species [Great Crested Flycatcher] feeds chiefly upon insects of various kinds; . . . afterwards, as if from choice, it chiefly eats ripe berries of various kinds of shrubs and plants, among which those of the poke-weed and the huckleberry are most noticeable." Many of the shrubs among which the bird moved on the day it was observed were berry-laden.—HORACE W. WRIGHT, *Boston, Mass.*

**The Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) at Springfield, Mass.**—In the spring of 1908 the presence of a single Starling was first noticed in this vicinity. Since that time the number observed in this part of the Connecticut valley has rapidly increased until this winter flocks containing upwards of one hundred individuals have been often seen. They now occasionally come into the very center of the city, frequenting the spires and cupolas of the churches and public buildings.—ROBERT O. MORRIS, *Springfield, Mass.*

**Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) in Chester Co., Pa.**—While the Starling has long been a common resident in the vicinity of New York and adjacent

territory very few have hitherto been reported from Chester Co., Pa., and they only very recently I believe. My first observation of them was made within six miles of West Chester, east of the town Nov. 30, 1911, when two of them were noticed in a field, on the ground. Three days later, on Dec. 3, I observed quite a large flock of them closely associated with a belated colony of Purple Grackles, they were seeking shelter for the night in a clump of evergreen trees on a lawn in the town and numbered thirty or forty individuals, enough to start a good sized colony next spring if they remain.—THOMAS H. JACKSON, *West Chester, Pa.*

**Strange actions of a Red-eyed Cowbird.**—I have always considered the Cowbirds as playing the character of sneak, when necessity compelled them to seek out the nest of their feathered kin, but in view of the following incident I feel somewhat dubious.

Toward the end of May, 1911, a pair of Sennett's Oriole (*Icterus cucullatus sennetti*) built their semi-pensile nest, composed almost entirely of fibers from stem or leaf of Spanish Dagger,<sup>1</sup> Palmetto<sup>2</sup> and Banana, in or rather attached to a vine-stalk of a Rosa de Montana,<sup>3</sup> that shaded the library windows of our house from the morning sun. Therefore, the position of the nest allowed easy observation at all times. Early one morning, after the complement of three eggs had been laid, and were being brooded, a female Red-eyed Cowbird (*Tangavius æneus involucratus*) was noted on the ground near the site of the nest. Its restless manner held my attention, and within a very few moments the cause was apparent. Walking to the base of the vine-stalk supporting the nest it flew upward several feet then grasping the stalk continued its vertical progress, at the same time flapping the wings vigorously, thereby producing considerable noise. Reaching a point well within a foot of the nest—or about six feet above ground—it arrested progress, but continued the wing movement. Although this needs have perturbed the setting Oriole, she never once quitted her treasures. After a period of a minute or thereabouts the Cowbird flew away. Two days later the same scene was reacted, only, on this occasion, the departure of the Cowbird was due to the appearance of the male Oriole on the scene. The nest was examined at various times thereafter and it never held more than the rightful contents. Two eggs eventually hatched, but the young never left the nest alive, being destroyed by some mammal, possibly the Texas Opossum (*Didelphis marsupialis texensis*) a serious enemy to bird-life in southern Texas.—AUSTIN PAUL SMITH, *Brownsville, Texas.*

**The Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*) Wintering in New Jersey.**—An immature male of this species was found dead and frozen stiff in Haddonfield, N. J., January 16, 1912, and brought to me by my nephew, Henry

<sup>1</sup> *Yucca treculeana*.

<sup>2</sup> *Inodes texana*.

<sup>3</sup> *Antigonon leptopus*.